

JOHN LINDSAY AND SARAH EMILY ROOKER MUIR

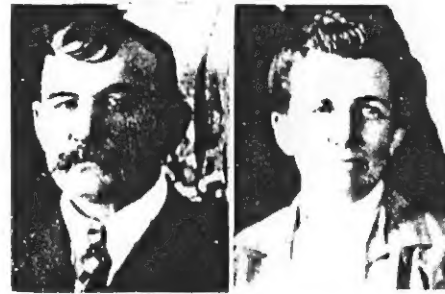
John Lindsay was born May 24, 1864, to George and Christina Howie Lindsay Muir at Heber.

At the age of four, John and his younger brother, George, age three, were given some apricots to eat. While attempting to crack the pits of the cots for the meat inside, with George holding the pits, John lifted the ax. His strength was unequal to the weight and the ax fell with sharp side down and sliced off three of brother George's fingers on his right hand. From then on the brothers were dubbed "Shaky" and "Stub."

1064

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

CENTER CREEK BIOGRAPHIES



John began school at the age of eight, but was rebellious at the strict and rigid rules of teachers and quit before the year was out. He attended again at the age of ten for a year, with Bill Buys as teacher, and through the second winter under the tutelage of John Wing.

Unhappy with school and home life, John ran away from home at the age of twelve and went to Ashley Valley with James and Al Hatch. He worked for the Hatch ranch as a chore boy and horse wrangler, learning the fundamentals of handling horses. He learned to ride well and spent many years of his life in the saddle. This early experience brought him a brief, yet historical bit of fame. While working for the Lily Park Cattle Company in western Colorado, Buffalo Bill Cody came through the area, looking for good cowboys and stock to begin his Wild West show.

John Muir was hired as a bronc rider and rode in the first rodeo Cody put on for the public at Denver. He related the experience thus: "I made one good ride and then got piled high by the second horse. Cody cussed me out for the bad showing and I got mad and quit. Had I controlled my temper I could have gone to Europe with Cody, as he was scheduled to go at the time with all the riders."

He worked for various cattle outfits in western Colorado and eastern Utah. Badmen and early western outlaws frequently came through this country to hide out or work awhile and lay low while they planned another robbery. John was at the Lily Park ranch working about the year 1880, when the notorious outlaw Butch Cassidy came to the cabin where John was camping. He asked to stay overnight. John said he was alone. About sundown a sheriff's posse rode up to the cabin. Cassidy threw open the

door and, with gun in hand, ordered the horsemen to put up their hands. He then ordered John to go and remove their guns. Then Cassidy ordered the group to leave. After they left, Cassidy went to bed telling John the sheriff wouldn't return till morning. John lay awake all night, expecting bullets to fly any moment. With the crack of dawn, Cassidy saddled his horse and left.

While on prolonged trips back home Heber, John had selected the girl he was to marry, and on December 25, 1889, Sarah Emily Rooker became his wife. Four children were born to this marriage: Louie, October 16, 1890; Russell, November 27, 1895; Curtis, June 1, 1903, and Joseph, June 24, 1910. After marriage he settled down and began working around Heber and vicinity, spending several winters working in Park City in the silver mines.

He usually returned to Center and worked with his father on the farm. He took over the farm completely about 1900 and engaged in the cattle and sheep business during the remainder of his life.

Sarah Emily Rooker Muir died of pneumonia on January 27, 1927. Her life was one of complete devotion to her family. She received a good education and taught school a year or two before her marriage. After her marriage she settled down to the task of making a home for her husband and children, and always trying to gain the best possible education for her children. Her goal was partially realized, in that all four children graduated from high school, three attending college a short time and one graduating. She was a faithful Relief Society worker.

John Muir was well respected in Heber Valley. He served as a director on the Daniels Irrigation and Willow Creek Companies, was active in the Center Creek culinary wafer system development and water company.

Louie became a talented singer, studied at Brigham Young University and sang for many years. Russell enlisted in World War I and died from influenza in France, October 29, 1918.

Curtis took over the active management of the farm about 1924. After that time John spent alternate periods visiting Louie and Joseph and always called Center Creek

home. He died from causes incident to age at Ogden, August 13, 1949, and was interred in Heber City.